

**United States Environmental Protection Agency  
Region II  
POLLUTION REPORT**

**Date:** Monday, June 2, 2008

**From:** Jack D. Harmon

**To:** Jack Harmon, USEPA, 2ERRD-RAB  
George Zachos, USEPA Region II  
Dan Harkay, USEPA Region II Removal Section  
Virginia Capon, USEPA Region II  
Mary Jane Peachey, NYSDEC Region 7  
Tom Michales, City of Cortland  
Mark Pane, USEPA Region II

Mike Basile, USEPA Region II  
Joe Rotola, USEPA Region II Removal Branch  
Mary Mears, USEPA Region II  
Tim Grier, USEPA  
Dick Brazell, NYSDEC Region 7  
Mike Dwyer, USEPA Region II

**Subject:** Buckbee-Mears  
30 Kellogg Road, Cortland, NY  
Latitude: 42.5920000  
Longitude: -76.1581800

<b>POLREP No.:</b>	16	<b>Site #:</b>	YH
<b>Reporting Period:</b>		<b>D.O. #:</b>	EP-W-04-054-044
<b>Start Date:</b>	1/10/2007	<b>Response Authority:</b>	CERCLA
<b>Mob Date:</b>		<b>Response Type:</b>	Time-Critical
<b>Demob Date:</b>		<b>NPL Status:</b>	Non NPL
<b>Completion Date:</b>		<b>Incident Category:</b>	Removal Action
<b>CERCLIS ID #:</b>	NYN000205908	<b>Contract #</b>	EP-W-06-072
<b>RCRIS ID #:</b>			

**Site Description**

The facility is located at 30 Kellogg Road, City of Cortland, Cortland County, New York, 13045. The property is approximately 50 acres in size and contains a large main production building, interconnected with several smaller production buildings, an office building and several support buildings, including a flammable storage building and a hazardous waste storage garage. The total size of the facility buildings is estimated at 367,000 ft<sup>2</sup>.

The Buckbee-Mears facility was purchased by International Electron Devices (IED) on October 26, 2004. IED operated the facility until May, 2005, when they closed due to a lack of funding. A large number of the bulk chemicals used in production and the chemical wastes from past operations were abandoned on Site. These materials included: strong acids and caustics in large tanks, drums, process piping and numerous small containers throughout the facility. Approximately seven cylinders of chlorine gas were also abandoned on Site.

During the summer of 2006, the Cortland Police Department responded to a report of vandalism and became concerned when they discovered the large amount of chemicals which had been abandoned at the Site. The Cortland Police subsequently notified the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) of their findings. On July 27, 2006, representatives from the NYSDEC, the Cortland Police and Fire Departments and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) conducted a Site visit. The visit confirmed the presence of numerous hazardous substances in drums, tanks and cylinders throughout the facility. The potential for a chemical release was deemed serious because the facility was idle with no security and all utilities had been terminated. On August 1, 2006, the NYSDEC formally requested the EPA to conduct a removal action under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) at this Site.

Negotiations with the PRP to perform the required clean up actions resulted in EPA issuing an Administrative Order on September 29, 2006. The PRP initially complied with the Order, but ceased correspondence with EPA in early November, 2006. Following several acts of vandalism at the facility, EPA initiated a Removal Action on January 10, 2007.

**Current Activities**

Site security was in place during all non-working hours this period and no incidents were reported.

WRS personnel continued cutting and removing chemical process piping. During the reporting period, 9,850 feet of various chemical feed lines were addressed, bringing the total to date to 126,030 feet. In excess of 1,100 gallons of corrosive liquid was collected. All corrosive liquids collected thus far are being transferred into the on-site clarifier for treatment. WRS personnel also continued pre-demolition activities in buildings 1 and 2. Roof top air filters and scrubbers were dismantled and contaminated filtering media removed. Large sized scrubbers, HVAC units and reclaimers units were cleaned/drained and dismantled. In addition, contents from roof top piping, generators and motors were drained. Piping continued to be cut and removed. Two transformers were drained and more than 500 gallons of oil was collected. Three 40-CY roll-offs of C&D debris were shipped off-site for disposal.

The AST continues to monitor work zone safety and provide air monitoring.

An application for a demolition permit was approved by the City of Cortland. A demolition plan for buildings 1 and 2 was finalized and arrangements are being made for equipment to be mobilized. Tentative starting date for commencing demolition is the week of June 16, 2008.

Discussions are underway to formulate a sampling and analysis plan for determining the extent of contamination in surface and subsurface soils and water.

### Planned Removal Actions

Building conditions continue to deteriorate due to extensive roof leaks, burst water and chemical feed pipes and significant mold growth. Leaking acid feed pipes accelerate the deterioration process. These worsening conditions significantly have required the EPA to increase the scope of their removal action. In addition, the information offered by a former maintenance person at the facility proved inaccurate; that resulted in far more contamination remaining in the process piping than originally thought.

### Next Steps

EPA will continue Site security during all non-working hours. ERRS will pursue disposal, recycling, and scrapping options for waste materials and metal remaining on-site. The AST will continue to provide air monitoring and oversight of work zone health and safety and compliance to the HASP. Demolition operations are expected to begin the week of June 16, 2008 and take two months to complete.

### Key Issues

Since the condition of the buildings has worsened, EPA has increased its scope of work to include removal and disposal of process piping, cleaning and dismantling of tanks, decontamination of building interiors, salvaging equipment, scrapping of metal components and, demolition of buildings 1 & 2

### Estimated Costs \*

	Budgeted	Total To Date	Remaining	% Remaining
<b>Extramural Costs</b>				
ERRS - Cleanup Contractor	\$3,968,000.00	\$3,131,526.00	\$836,474.00	21.08%
RST	\$500,000.00	\$389,262.00	\$110,738.00	22.15%
<b>Intramural Costs</b>				
USEPA - Direct	\$250,000.00	\$199,539.00	\$50,461.00	20.18%
<b>Total Site Costs</b>				
	\$4,718,000.00	\$3,720,327.00	\$997,673.00	21.15%

\* The above accounting of expenditures is an estimate based on figures known to the OSC at the time this report was written. The OSC does not necessarily receive specific figures on final payments made to any contractor(s). Other financial data which the OSC must rely upon may not be entirely up-to-date. The cost accounting provided in this report does not necessarily represent an exact monetary figure which the government may include in any claim for cost recovery.

### Disposition of Wastes

Waste Stream	Quantity	Manifest #	Disposal Facility
--------------	----------	------------	-------------------

Non-Haz C&D	120 cu. yds.	05080801/05200901/06030801	Seneca Meadows Landfill 1786 Salcman Road Waterloo, NY 13165
-------------	--------------	----------------------------	--

[response.epa.gov/BuckbeeMears](http://response.epa.gov/BuckbeeMears)

POLREP #16 Last Updated 6/5/2008